

## \$1,430,000 LOOT BACK; HE'S FREE

Shourds Not Guilty on the Plea of Robbed Bank Officials.

## THEY FEARED FAILURE

Authorities Agree to Freedom for Long Sought Philadelphian.

## JEROME GOT THIEF BACK

Man Who Flew in 1911 Made Fortune With Stolen Money and Securities.

PHILADELPHIA, June 6.—Walter F. Shourds, a trusted employee of the Merchants Union Trust Company, who robbed that bank of \$1,430,000 in securities and \$20,000 in cash and who has been hunted by the police, the Pinkertons and the Burns detectives, came into court here to-day, confessed his crime and made restitution.

Judge Hall then ordered the bill of indictment submitted and a verdict of not guilty taken. The case was dropped because the officials of the institution which was robbed pleaded that if they could not drop the case and get their stolen bonds back the bank would go to the wall.

Shourds gave back all that he took and \$1,000 in addition as a sop for the injured feelings of the bank directors. George Burnham, Jr., one of the officials of the institution, spent \$20,000 in trying to apprehend Shourds.

On September, 1911, Shourds, who was the superintendent of the vaults of the bank, disappeared. When the officials went to their offices that day they could not open the vaults. Shourds was not to be found. He was sent for. His wife went back word that he was not in the house. Experts were engaged to open the safe and the bank began the day's business with money from other institutions. An investigation showed that \$20,000 in cash was gone and a few days later it was discovered that bonds to the extent of \$1,430,000, almost all of them negotiable, had been stolen.

Shourds Eludes Detectives.  
Pinkerton men were engaged and every part of the Atlantic was guarded, but Shourds slipped through. In January he was indicted and the Burns agency was called into the case.

News of the theft was suppressed because a run on the bank was feared. The New York papers gave the first indication to the general public that the theft had been committed. Officials of the bank were evasive and said that Shourds' stealings were not as big as reported.

About a year ago advertisements appeared in the Paris, New York and local papers which told Mrs. Shourds where her husband might be found and negotiations were begun for the return of the securities according to plans which Shourds indicated in his advertisements. A representative of the Burns agency was directed to see Shourds, but the latter did not trust him and the deal was called off. Later Shourds took up the matter with ex-District Attorney Jerome of New York. Jerome then communicated with the Philadelphia authorities.

It was arranged that if Shourds should make restitution he would not be prosecuted. In all his dealings he demanded that back should attach to his record and that the indictment be quashed before he would make good the thefts.

Shourds was assured by Jerome that he had put the deal through. Still the fugitive doubted it and feared that he was being doubly dealt with. He came to this country and landed in New York, where he was met by his wife, Jerome and a Burns representative.

## Leaves Half His Loot in Germany.

Shourds was the last that he was not being dealt with fairly. Shourds came home with only half the loot. He smiled and told the lawyers who agreed to meet him that he did not trust them and that he had salted half the loot in Germany. When they had convinced him that he would not be prosecuted, Shourds went back to Germany with a Burns man and got the balance of the money. After his second return Shourds still retained the half of his loot which he had gone to Germany to get, and the bank failed to make him give it up until he was freed of the charge against him.

Today all the parties interested in the case were in court. Shourds and his wife were there; also District Attorney Rotan, Attorney-General Bell, representing the Banking Department, and President Clarence L. Harper of the bank and Edwin O. Lewis, attorney for the bank.

Bankers Ask for Shourds' Freedom.  
District Attorney Rotan told the court that the officials of the bank were not to accept the offer they would have to make. Mr. Rotan said, and they asked him to condone the compounding of the felony. He said that he would do so only with the permission of the court. The Attorney-General then said that the Banking Department would consent to the case being dropped if the court approved.

District Attorney Rotan had each of the officials of the bank say that they were not to accept the offer they would have to make. Shourds was told to stand up so that the court could see that he was present.

The court remarked that it did not

see how it could do otherwise, in view of the fact that the safety of the bank, its depositors and shareholders was at stake, and the jury was ordered to find a verdict of not guilty. When the verdict had been recorded Shourds handed a bundle to Mr. Lewis, who found the balance of the missing bonds and stocks in it. Shourds also gave the extra \$5,000 to the bank's attorney. Shourds have lived for nearly three months on four cents a day. Wood says he feels better physically for it. The couple say \$1,000 insures a person a comfortable and healthy living throughout life, besides a small bank account.

To live on the four cents a day scale, Woods says, there should be obtained a home and a small piece of land on which to raise vegetables. The Webster couple raise their own vegetables, which were used in the following menu: Breakfast—Doughnuts and bread, fried Indian meal, pudding, butter and grape jelly. Dinner—Potatoes, baked wheat pudding, tomato soup, grape jelly, bread and butter, doughnuts, cracked wheat and milk. Supper—Buckwheat cakes and gravy, butter, plum jelly, cracked wheat and tea.

COUPLE LIVE ON 4 CENTS A DAY.  
Only a Home and a Small Farm Needed, They Say.

Worcester, Mass., June 6.—Marcus M. Wood, 73 years old, and his wife, Webster, have lived for nearly three months on four cents a day. Wood says he feels better physically for it. The couple say \$1,000 insures a person a comfortable and healthy living throughout life, besides a small bank account.

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## JERE K. COOKE'S WIFE WINS DIVORCE SUIT

Minister Who Eloped With Floretta Whaley Makes No Defence.

## CAN MARRY NOW, HE SAYS

Working as Painter. He Telephones News to Mother of His Children.

## TAFT AND WILSON MAY MEET AT GOLF

Ex-President in Washington for First Time Since March 4.

WASHINGTON, June 6.—Prof. William H. Taft of Yale reached Washington to-day. It is his first visit to the capital as an ex-President. He received friends to-night at the home of William J. Boardman.

Mr. Taft came to Washington to preside as chairman at the meeting of the Lincoln Memorial Commission. While here he will play golf and probably will cross clubs with President Wilson. Tomorrow Mrs. Taft will be the guest at luncheon of President and Mrs. Wilson.

Mr. Taft declined to-day to discuss politics in any way that would appear to place him in the attitude of commenting on the work of the Wilson Administration. "Let it work out its problems in its own way without comment from the outside," he said.

Mr. Taft reached Washington at 5:55 o'clock this afternoon. He will remain here until Tuesday morning, when he will leave for New York to speak at a dinner of the Philippine Society.

What do you think of the move to call a convention of the Republican party? was one of the questions he was asked.

"That is something I would not want to express myself on," he said, "without giving my answer some thought and writing it out."

Mr. Taft's work at Yale is finished for the year. He will return to New Haven for the reunion of his own class in the rough and tumble of public life. He said, "I find that I have grown a bit rusty on some of the finer points of the law, and as I will have to take charge of a large class of bright young men next year I will have to brush up on that I will be able to answer any question they may put to me."

He may lecture next year at the University of Minnesota and at Ann Arbor and possibly at Boston University.

WANTS OPEN CURRENCY DEBATE.  
Lindbergh Will Be Fought by Democrats in Committee.

WASHINGTON, June 6.—Representative Lindbergh of Minnesota, the Bull Moose member, has stirred up an issue in the Banking and Currency Committee. At the initial meeting to-day for organization he presented a resolution providing that all committee hearings and sessions should be open to press and public. The resolution was referred to a subcommittee of five, which will give Mr. Lindbergh a hearing.

Chairman Glass and other leaders oppose opening the sessions. The measure will be prepared in large part within the Administration circle. This fact the Democrats do not want emphasized, as the case would be with sessions thrown open.

There is a chance of a sufficient number of Democrats and Republicans joining Lindbergh in the demand for forcing the committee to do its business in the open.

Reporters came to call. Said Mr. Cooke: "If ever in my life I wished to see newspaper men it is now. I want to tell them this: 'Floretta Whaley and I will be married the moment our lawyer, who is now in Hartford, says we are free to do so. We do not care where or by whom. Probably it will be by a justice of the peace or an Alderman, for, although I still have such good friends in the ministry that they would brave anything to do this thing for us, we shall not let them, because as public has been our history it might endanger their standing as ministers of the Gospel.'

Floretta Whaley, her eyes on her two boys shooting marbles on the floor, said that the granting of the divorce had made her very happy. Mr. Cooke went further. He said: "It's the happiest day in my life."

"I am happy," he went on, "because it means an opportunity of legitimizing these two boys, because they can always call me 'father' without shame, and because the world will no longer be able to question the position of this woman with whom I have lived in perfect happiness and understanding for six years."

Grateful to Former Wife.  
"I am very grateful to the wife who has divorced me. If I gave her my pain I regret it severely. She is Floretta's grandmother in Hempstead is not hostile to me. Reports that

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## M. P. NAMED IN DIVORCE SUIT

Lloyd George's Secretary Involved in Carr-Gomm Action.

## WILSON IS NOT YET BACKING TOBACCO TAX

McReynolds Plan Raises Such a Storm That Support Is Receding.

## BOUND FOR PIGEONHOLE

Plan Is an Old One Resurrected to Meet an Emergency.

WASHINGTON, June 6.—The Wilson administration has not adopted any radical "trust busting" plan either with regard to the American Tobacco Company and allied corporations or any other big business concern.

Great pains were taken by the Administration to-day to make it clear that Attorney-General McReynolds's suggestion for imposing a graduated excise tax on manufacturers of tobacco had not been accepted by President Wilson. It also was made plain that the McReynolds plan was not intended as a suggestion for a general "trust busting" policy, but was put forward merely as a temporary expedient to meet an extraordinary situation.

The President not only has not committed himself to the support of an effort to have this plan incorporated in the Underwood tariff bill, but he has become distinctly impatient at the wide circulation given to reports that he is standing behind the McReynolds suggestion. Developments to-day indicated clearly that the President is viewing the taxation scheme with a critical eye and apparently is inclined at present to draw away from it if any other remedy can be found to meet the situation.

As a matter of fact there was plenty of evidence that other developments of the last few days, the financial world had a distinctly sobering effect upon Administration officials and there is likely to be a cessation of novel suggestions for the curbing of corporations from Administration sources.

If the President finally turns completely from the McReynolds scheme it will leave the Attorney-General in an embarrassing position. The proposition to tax the so-called tobacco trust for the protection of its competitors is the first important move that has been made by the new Attorney-General, and if he is left high and dry by the President he is likely to experience a considerable handicap.

An authoritative version of the Administration's attitude toward the excise tax suggestion, together with an explanation of the event which led to the publication of the plan, was secured to-day for the first time. In this version emphasis is laid on the fact that the President and his Cabinet advisers have done nothing more than suggest that the plan be discussed with the Senate Finance Committee for the purpose of ascertaining the committee's views.

All the information obtainable to-day tended to justify the belief that the Administration is fully aware of the seriousness of a step such as it was reported to have been contemplating and that it had determined that the unfortunate aspects of the present situation should be dispelled as quickly as possible by supplementing the information already obtained with a fair exposition of the correlated facts.

The history of the excise tax plan, as learned from authoritative sources, is as follows:

Mr. McReynolds first conceived the idea of subjecting the big tobacco corporations to a graded tax for the purpose of opening a larger share of competition to the so-called independent corporations when the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill was being written. He carried the suggestion to Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, the author of the bill embodying the general principle of the McReynolds plan, which was introduced in the Senate yesterday, and Senator Hitchcock about a year ago introduced a bill to carry out the idea.

Recently a number of independent manufacturers reported to the Attorney-General that their condition was growing more and more hopeless because the decree dissolving the tobacco monopoly has not restored competition. They declared that their business was doomed and called upon him to devise some method for bringing aid to them. Mr. McReynolds, of course, considered these statements and became convinced of the accuracy of the plan as it was presented. He had openly denounced the tobacco decree at the time it was entered.

The Attorney-General then hit upon his former taxation plan as a means for temporarily righting what he considered the wrongs caused by the decree. He saw no immediate possibility of reopening the case before the Supreme Court and he was convinced that the exigencies of the situation were sufficient to warrant extraordinary steps.

He laid the plan before the Cabinet on Tuesday and asked for a consideration of its main idea, but did not formulate it to the extent of laying down the rates which should be levied.

The Cabinet regarded the plan as at least worthy of consideration and the President suggested that it be talked over with Chairman Simmons. The last development from the viewpoint of the Administration came when Senator Simmons promised that the Finance Committee would give the suggestion the consideration which its importance demanded.

The President had a talk with the Attorney-General to-day and it is believed that reference was made to the generally unfavorable comment with which the taxation scheme has been received. It already is evident that the McReynolds suggestion has brought more criticism on the Administration than any other development.

Members of the Finance Committee evinced no enthusiasm to-day for the McReynolds plan, and it is certain they will pigeonhole it unless the President insists on action, which now seems unlikely.

YALE-PRINCETON BASEBALL.  
Special Train, Pennsylvania Railroad, direct to Lower Valley, Princeton, Saturday, June 7, 8:25 A. M.; 11:15 A. M.; 12:30 P. M.; Leave Hudson Terminal 11:15 A. M.; 12:30 P. M.; Return 11:15 P. M.

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## SLAYER, IN 12 YEARS, FREED.

Gov. Cox Now Convicted "Clergy King" Was Not a Murderer.

## CALLS WILSON REAL LOBBYIST

Townsend Dubs "Coercion on Tariff" Very Pernicious Activity.

## HITS USE OF PATRONAGE

Senator's Remarks at Hearing Force New Phase in Inquiry.

## OTHERS TO BE RECALLED

Democratic Investigator Prods Hornet Nest When He Asks Leading Questions.

## BLOW SAFE; FIRE HOUSE.

Burglars Make Early Morning Raid on Staten Island.

## MRS. HEWITT LEFT \$4,258,264.

All Goes to Three Sons and Two Daughters.

## DR. PEASE AN "OLD NUT."

Car Smoker's Reply to Anti-Smokers Argument Costs Him \$10.

Dr. Charles G. Pease, president of the Anti-Smokers League, yesterday boarded a westbound 15th street car and took a "no smoking allowed" seat. Next him was Bernard Coyle of 288 St. Nicholas avenue, puffing a long cigar. A discussion ensued, according to the doctor's testimony in night court.

"But however that may be, don't you know you are violating an ordinance?"—so went the doctor's last word.

"You're an old nut," was Coyle's. The charge before Magistrate Marsh was disorderly conduct and Coyle was fined \$10.

## NEW PHONE RATES JULY 1.

Will Save Customers \$650,000 a Year.

A revision of telephone toll rates to begin July 1 is provided in the new schedule filed by the New York Telephone Company with the Public Service Commission, Second District of New York, and the Board of Utility Commissioners of New Jersey. The new schedule provides uniform rates for uniform distances, based in general on air line distances between toll points.

It is estimated that the new rates will save telephone toll customers \$650,000 a year. A new system of charging for overtime is adopted, the charges being graded for the actual time of the connection instead of a flat charge for fractions of five minutes as hitherto.

## WILD RIDE ENDS IN JAIL.

R. K. Stafford of Huntington, L. I., Held at Bridgeport.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., June 6.—Robert K. Stafford, 19 years old, of Huntington, L. I., an old New York city, described as a wealthy youth, has been arrested here for speeding. He is held awaiting the arrival of Fairfield authorities, who accuse him of driving between Southport and this city at a rate of over ninety miles an hour. A man and woman were with him on the trip, which was the cause of many complaints to various town authorities.

## AFTER BIG GAME IN ARCTIC.

Philadelphia Huntsmen—Explorers Will Leave on June 15.

PHILADELPHIA, June 6.—Having tried the delights and dangers of shooting big game in British East Africa, E. Marshall Scull and Alfred M. Collins of this city will sail June 15 for the Arctic regions on another hunting expedition. In the party will be Gilpin Levering of Jenkintown and Dr. J. H. Elling of Albany.

The party will hunt in remote parts of Alaska and Siberia. The expedition has attracted the attention of big game shooters the world over, including Col. Theodore Roosevelt.

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Democratic Investigator Prods Hornet Nest When He Asks Leading Questions.

WASHINGTON, June 6.—Senator Townsend of Michigan, a Republican, touched off real fireworks at the hearing of the lobby investigators this afternoon, when he charged that President Wilson's use of patronage to force Democratic Senators to accept the Underwood bill constituted lobbying of an insidious character.

The result is that the Democrats of the committee have been obliged to adopt a motion for the reexamination of Senators who, in the opinion of any member of the committee, may have been subjected to "Executive coercion." Thus the investigation, which started out to inquire into the existence of the insidious lobby charged by the President, has been enlarged to include the President's own activities.

Republicans are grinning at the plight in which the Democrats of the Senate find themselves. The Republicans on the committee are certain to raise the question of Executive interference with Senators from wool and sugar producing States, and some of the Democrats already examined probably will be recalled.

On top of this came the statement by several Republican Senators to-day that they will not feel at liberty to vote on the schedules in the tariff bill in which they are personally interested. This, however, will not apply to their votes on the bill when it comes up as a whole.

For several hours the investigation had proceeded in a humdrum manner until Senator Townsend came to the eighth question on the regular list for Senators which reads:

"Do you know or have you any information of the use of money to maintain a so-called lobby here or elsewhere? In connection with your answer state what you mean by the words lobby and lobbyist."

"I understand by the word lobby or rather lobbyist," said the Senator from Michigan, "a person whose business it is to promote or prevent legislation upon some particular subject. That influence may be proper or improper according to the methods he employs. In a narrower sense and in the sense in which the word was used by the President in his statement that gave rise to this investigation and which is generally understood by the people when they refer to a lobby, a person whose business it is to secure or prevent some particular legislation by the use of means which by intelligent and right minded men are considered improper."

Walsh Gets an Explanation.  
Senator Walsh, Democrat, interrupted to seek an explanation of just what Senator Townsend was driving at. He got it.

"I repeat," said Senator Townsend, "a lobbyist is a person whose business it is to secure or prevent legislation upon some particular subject. That influence may be proper or improper according to the methods he employs. In a narrower sense and in the sense in which the word was used by the President in his statement that gave rise to this investigation and which is generally understood by the people when they refer to a lobby, a person whose business it is to secure or prevent some particular legislation by the use of means which by intelligent and right minded men are considered improper."

"I have known many lobbyists who have been interested in legislation by proper means. I have not known of anybody who by the use of money or the proposed use of money, by the offer of reward or by entreatments has sought to secure some particular legislation. The nearest approach to influence against the honest and conscientious notions of duty of the legislators,"

"You apply it to the man in the legislative body